



## **CANM President's Report 2018**

As 2018 draws to a close, I wanted to update you on the Association's efforts, successes and where further work is required.

A priority this year was to update and develop guidelines for practice both for existing as well as new areas of the specialty. The first two chosen were ventilation/perfusion imaging and the area of theranostics. The ventilation perfusion guidelines have been adapted from the comprehensive European Association of Nuclear Medicine guidelines and updated. They are now available on the CANM Website.

The theranostics guidelines are under development. The first area of concentration is defining training requirements. This will be done in concert with the Specialty Committee. There will be a special session at the annual meeting in Québec on this important subject. From there, the working group will further expand this during the upcoming year. Targeted diagnosis and therapy with medical isotopes are a unique opportunity to advance the field of nuclear medicine and more fully integrate into the patient management continuum.

Radiopharmaceutical regulations continue to be a major focus of ours. We have truly become leaders along with the radiopharmaceutical scientists on a working group with Health Canada regarding this. We are moving this forward and the regulators continue to be receptive to our comments and concerns regarding this vital area. This November marked our fifth biennial nuclear medicine community workshop with the regulators. It was one of the most positive to date and there are number of action items arising from it that we will continue to work on to try and improve affordable access to these vital substances.

In August, I had the opportunity to meet with the new Minister of Health, the Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor. This important meeting gave us the opportunity to emphasize the difficulties our specialty faces, particularly with regards to access to and regulation around radiopharmaceuticals. It is always difficult to measure success of such endeavours, however we will continue to pursue the political branch of this process as well to try and achieve positive reform.

Because of the international nature of radiopharmaceutical development, we have also focused on international levels of regulation particularly as to harmonization. There are many positive

aspects of regulatory mechanisms in other jurisdiction that, if adopted within our country, would be a significant improvement. We are working with our partner professional nuclear societies to produce a white paper reflecting this. We will also publish a CME article in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine around these issues with regards to first in human trials of radiopharmaceutical's and the disparities between jurisdictions but as well the opportunities.

The more than ever global nature of the nuclear medicine industry has also led us to liaise and work with other national societies and associations to formulate and adopt best nuclear medicine practices.

Additionally, as recognition of our collaborative efforts, the SNMMI has chosen Canada as its highlight country for its annual meeting in Anaheim this coming June. This is a great honour that will allow us the opportunity to showcase the high level of Canadian practice. As part of this we will be coordinating a few international CME sessions. If you are going to be in attendance please let the office know so we can keep you informed.

The Pangea project is now viewed as a key magazine by our colleagues and the NM industry and our members have brought significant contributions to the issues that have been published so far.

The annual meeting in Vancouver conjoint with the CAMRT was successful and well attended, highlighting a symposium on the value initiative of nuclear medicine, as well as many other excellent CME subjects. Our upcoming annual meeting will be in February in "balmy" Québec City. It will be a true Canadian experience! It is in fact planned to coincide with Carnival so there will be lots of fun and activities. The East Coast is experiencing one of its earliest winters ever and so the skiing should be remarkable as well. More importantly, the scientific content will as always be exemplary. This year will highlight some MOCOMP Type 3 CME opportunities. There will be significant discussions on theranostics as well as other important subjects. Mark your calendar and I hope to see you there.

The official inclusion of Resident representatives to the Board this year has added an important perspective. Other important endeavours include moving forward with the Industry Forum and making available the CANM patient-focused educational videos.

We appreciate the support and feedback from the membership in helping keep nuclear medicine strong and vibrant in Canada. As I will move into the role of Past President in February, I want to personally thank members for the opportunity and support. I have truly enjoyed the experience. All the best to all for 2019.

Sincerely,  
*Andrew Ross*